

Amendment  
U.S. Patent Appln. No. 09/275,941

At page 2 of the Action, claims 1 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Ahlheim *et al.* (Makromol. Chem. 193(3), p. 779-797).

Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection has been overcome by the amendment to claim 1 and the cancellation of claim 4.

Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

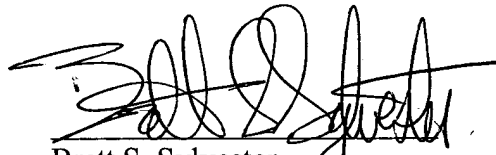
Claims 2-3 and 5-9 are objected to as depending on a rejected claim, i.e., claim 1.

Applicants respectfully submit that the amendment to claim 1 overcomes the objection to claims 2-3 and 5-9.

Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the objection to claims 2-3 and 5-9.

Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Brett S. Sylvester  
Registration No. 32,765

SUGHRUE, MION, ZINN,  
MACPEAK & SEAS, PLLC  
2100 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20037-3213  
Telephone: (202) 293-7060  
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

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**APPENDIX**

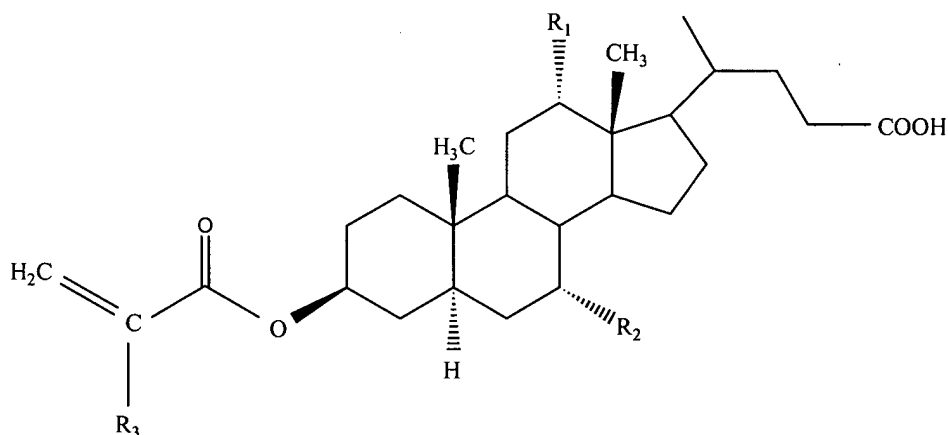
**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

**Claims 4 and 10 are canceled.**

**Claim 1 is amended as follows:**

1. (twice amended) A polymerizable (meth)acrylic acid ester compound for an alkali-soluble resin represented by the following formula (I):



wherein R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub> each independently [represent] represents a hydrogen atom or a hydroxyl group[;], and R<sub>3</sub> represents a hydrogen atom or a methyl group, provided that R<sub>3</sub> represents a hydrogen atom when R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub> each represents a hydroxyl group.